

acquired channels. See col. 24, line 21 to col. 26, line 13. In particular, according to the handoff procedure 1705 as shown in Fig. 20, if a new channel has been successfully acquired in Step 2005, the threshold levels are immediately checked in Step 2015. If the threshold levels are violated by the new channel (which has been successfully acquired), the procedure again attempts to acquire the same channel for n more times (Step 2019). If the acquired channel repeatedly violates the threshold levels after n attempts, only then is the Adjust Threshold Mode entered (Step 2021). Thus, Balachandran does not teach the adjustment of a threshold when a handoff operation fails to transfer a call to another base station, as in the present invention, but instead adjusts a threshold when the newly acquired channel fails to meet the established threshold levels after a number of attempts to acquire it. If the attempt handoff mode fails to acquire a channel after attempting to acquire all channels (Step 2007), the process goes to the Initial Acquisition Mode 1707 (Step 2009).

As such, there is no threshold adjustment in Balachandran where the handoff procedure fails to transfer a call to another base station. In step 2005 of Balachandran Fig. 20, a new channel has been successfully acquired, and thus transfer has been completed according to the definition of "handover operation" in the present specification.

In particular, according to the invention as claimed, and as shown in Fig. 3, when either field intensity level or circuit quality of an existing communication channel connection is determined to be below a set threshold, a handoff instruction is sent to the radio unit. If the handoff operation is successful (e.g., where the radio unit has successfully acquired a new channel) the threshold levels are restored to default values and the handoff operation ends, but field intensity level and circuit quality continue to be compared with thresholds. See Fig. 3, Step ST7 to Step ST2. This corresponds with Balachandran Fig. 20 Step 2005 to Step 2015. Thus, it is clear from the specification that "transferring the call to another base station" corresponds to a positive result in Step ST5 of Fig. 3, which corresponds to a positive result in Step 2005 of Fig. 20 of Balachandran. When a new channel has been successfully acquired (Step ST5 of Fig. 3 and Step 2005 of Balachandran Fig. 20), the newly acquired channel's parameters are subsequently compared against thresholds (Step ST2 of Fig. 3 and Step 2015 of

Balachandran). But contrary to the present invention, when a transfer to another base station is unsuccessful (no channel acquisition, Step 2007 of Balachandran) instead of lowering default thresholds Balachandran goes to an initial acquisition mode (Fig. 20 Step 2021, the steps of which are described in Fig. 22).

The rejection of claims 10, 12, 13, 21, 23 and 24 as being unpatentable over Balachandran in view of Blasiak et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,711,004, is also traversed. The Office action cites Blasiak as disclosing selective inhibition of changing of a default threshold value by a control unit. However, Blasiak fails to cure the basic deficiency of Balachandran with respect to independent claims 8 and 19, and thus no combination of these prior art references renders the claimed invention obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration of this application and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fee or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

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Attachment: Copy of Amendment Showing Changes Made

COPY OF AMENDMENT SHOWING CHANGES MADE

9. (Amended) A radio communication system as set forth in claim 8 [1], wherein said control unit restores said at least one default threshold upon successful transfer of said call to another base station.

10. (Amended) A radio communication system as set forth in claim 8 [1], further comprising selecting means for enabling a user to selectively inhibit changing of a default threshold by said control unit.

11. (Amended) A radio communication system as set forth in claim 8 [1], wherein a predetermined inhibit time is set which must elapse after an unsuccessful handover operation before another handover operation may be started, and said control unit increases said predetermined inhibit time when said handover operation fails to transfer said call to another base station.

12. (Amended) A radio communication system as set forth in claim 8 [1], wherein said control unit accepts an instruction from a user to inhibit a handover operation regardless of the result of comparison of said measured field intensity level and said circuit quality value with said thresholds.

13. (Amended) A radio communication system as set forth in claim 8 [1], wherein said control unit accepts an instruction from a user to execute a handover operation regardless of the result of comparison of said measured field intensity level and said circuit quality value with said thresholds.